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10:44 a.m.

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FROM: Tripoli

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 682, June 3, 1 p.m.

PRIORITY

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In most objective, cogent press comment yet noted on US aid to Libya, AL-RAID May 30 after summarizing amount US assistance over past five years concludes this not enough for following reasons:

(1) GOL ratified base agreement after independence, although could have refused, as Morocco did. Questions whether US world position would be same if GOL had turned down Wheelus Field.

(2) GOL policy coordinated with that of US. Cities GOL approval of Eisenhower doctrine despite criticism at home and abroad.

(3) Wheelus important because of Libya's highly strategic position "between two wings Arab world" and facing middle Europe.

(4) American companies have major share oil concessions. In event war, Libyan oil will to large extent influence results.

In addition, base represents danger to Libyans in vicinity. Libya has

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Libya has no enemies, so "why should we offer ourselves as cheap sacrifice in war which does not concern us."

Editorial makes further point that American aid to Libya not charity, but what is Libya ojustdur* in return for Libya's contributions to US listed above.

Full text being pouched.

Comment: AL-RAID used as GOL mouthpiece on occasion. Seems probable this editorial officially-inspired. In any case, it presents to reader highly reasonable and cogent exposition Libyan arguments for increased US assistance.

JONES

AAL:FKG/11

Note: Message delayed in transmission.

*As received. Verification upon request.

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